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**COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**COURSE CODE: GST 203**

**LEVEL: 200 LEVEL**

**COLLEGE: LAW**

**DEPARTMENT: LAW**

**MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/026**

**CHAPTER 2**

**AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE**

this simply talks about Nigeria being a colonial creation and a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa.

The geographical territory in West Africa today called Nigeria is without any vestige of pessimism a creation of British colonial administration which dates back to the 19th and 20th centuries. The occupation of this territory by the British was with all intents and purposes antagonistic to the collective will of the indigenous population who owing to inferior military might, kowtowed to British invasion and subsequent annexation of present day Nigeria into a British colony. This also leads to the early man issue, The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but

there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria

which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known-as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period. The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment, because of the primary needs of man.

the early man improvised with the things of his environment to live well, the early man also made hand tools then proceeded to invent another type of tool, which is a heavy chopper It was more efficient in cutting than existing tools.

The type was first seen at Sango Bay on the west shores of Lake Victoria

in Uganda. East Africa. This is why it is called the Sagoan Once has been found in the Upper Sokoto River in Sokoto State.

The History of Nigeria can be traced to settlers trading across the middle East and Africa as early as 1100 BC. Numerous ancient African civilizations settled in the region that is known today as Nigeria, such as the Kingdom of Nri, the Benin Empire, and the Oyo Empire. Islam reached Nigeria through the Borno Empirebetween (1068 AD) and Hausa States around (1385 AD) during the 11th century, while Christianity came to Nigeria in the 15th century through Augustinian and Capuchin monks from Portugal. The Songhai Empire also occupied part of the region.

The history of Nigeria has been crucially affected by the transatlantic slave trade, which started in Nigeria in the late 15th century. The first slave-trading post used by the British and Portuguese was Badagry, a coastal harbour. Local brokers provided them with slaves, escalating conflicts among the ethnic groups in the region and disrupting older trade patterns through the Trans-Saharan route.

**The pre-colonial political system of the Yoruba land**

The Yorùbá people are a Niger-Congo ethnic group of southwestern and north-central Nigeria, as well as southern and central Benin. Together, these regions are known as Yorubaland. The Yoruba constitute about 44 million people in total. Majority of this population is from Nigeria, where the Yorùbá make up 21% of the country’s population, according to the CIA World Factbook, making them one of the largest ethnic groups in Africa. Most Yoruba people speak the Yoruba language, which is tonal, and is the Niger-Congo language with the largest number of native speakers.

The Oke Oramfe's version is another school of thought considered in the stories of Yoruba origin. Oke Oramfe is located in Ile-Ife. According to this account, Ile-Ife is not only the cradle of the Yoruba people but also of mankind. Oral history recorded under the Oyo Empire derives the Yoruba as an ethnic group from the population of the older kingdom of Ile-Ife. The Yoruba were the dominant cultural force in southern and Northern, Eastern Nigeria as far back as the 11th century. The Yoruba are among the most urbanized people in Africa.

 The pre-colonial political administration in Yoruba land had a decentralized structure i.e. power was constitutionally shared among all political levels/sections of the kingdom ranging from the highest to the lowest unit unlike the Hausa political system which was highly centralized.

Before the advent of the British in Yoruba land, Yoruba kingdoms maintained an orderly and unified political system which is still in effect till today.

A kingdom or empire in pre-colonial Yoruba land, for example the [old Oyo empire](https://oldnaija.com/2018/08/26/the-reign-of-bashorun-gaa-in-old-oyo-empire/) (Oyo-Ile), was made up of a headquarter called Olu-Ilu and other local towns and villages. However, its political administration consisted of a central level and subordinate units.

**The pre-colonial political system of the** **igboland**

The **Igbo people** are an ethnic group native to the present-day south-central and southeastern Nigeria. Geographically, the Igbo homeland is divided into two unequal sections by the Niger River– an eastern (which is the larger of the two) and a western section. The Igbo people are one of the largest ethnic groups in Africa.

The Igbo language is divided into numerous regional dialects, and somewhat mutually intelligible with the larger “Igboid” cluster. The Igbo homeland straddles the lower Niger River, east and south of the Edoid and Idomoid groups, and west of the Ibibioid (Cross River) cluster.

In rural Nigeria, Igbo people work mostly as craftsmen, farmers and traders. The most important crop is the yam. Other staple crops include cassava and taro. The Igbos are also highly urbanized, with some of the largest metropolitan areas, cities and towns in Igboland being Onitsha, Enugu, Aba, Owerri, Orlu, Okigwe, Port- Harcourt, Asaba, Awka, Nsukka, Nnewi, Umuahia, Abakaliki, Afikpo, Agbor and Arochukwu.

Before British colonial rule in the 20th century, the Igbo were a politically fragmented group, with a number of centralized chiefdoms such as Nri, Arochukwu, Agborand Onitsha. Frederick Lugard introduced the *Eze* system of “Warrant Chiefs”. Unaffected by the Fulani War and the resulting spread of Islam in Nigeria in the 19th century, they became overwhelmingly Christian under colonization.

**The pre-colonial political system of the Hausaland**

 Prior to the Jihad or the Holy War of 1804, the territory now known as the Northern sector of Nigeria was ruled by the Hausas under fourteen (14) independent kingdoms. The defeat of the Hausas in the Holy War by the Fulani under the able leadership of a great Muslim leader called Othman Dan Fodio led to the abolition of the Hausa Kingdom and the establishment of the Fulani Emirates. Each emirate was headed by an Emir. Sokoto and Gwandu were made the two (2) headquarters for all the emirates.

The Emirs of the other emirates were appointed either directly by the Emirs of Sokoto and Gwandu or appointed by the local people subject to the ratification of either Emirs of Sokoto or Gwandu. All these Emirs paid allegiance and annual tributes to the Emirs of Sokoto and Gwandu.

For administrative convenience, Othman Dan Fodio divided the Fulani Empire into two (2): the Eastern and the Western section. The Eastern section included: Kano, Katsina, Zaria, Bauchi, Gombe, and Yola with Sokoto as its capital. On the other hand, Ilorin, Kotangora and Argungu with Gwandu as the capital were included in the Western region.

Mohammed Bello, son of Othman Dan Fodio, was given the administration of the Eastern section with its capital at Sokoto while Abdullahi, Dan Fodio’s brother, took charge of the Western section with Gwandu as its headquarters. Othman Dan Fodio, who was installed the Sarkin Muslim (The Commander of the Faithful), retired from political life but stayed in Sokoto.